Setting up of an Employment Mission

†2292. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an employment mission is proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period to resolve the unemployment problem in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the Employment Mission would be set up and the need for this Mission after recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Planning Commission is in the process of finalization of the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, the approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential.

Changes in Industrial Disputes Act

2293. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the changes proposed in the Industrial Disputes Act relating to compensation to be paid to the workers in case of retrenchment or closure of an industrial unit; and

(b) by when the changes are likely to be introduced?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The amendment proposals to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are under consideration of the Government. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify any time limit at this stage.

Social Security Schemes

2294. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Social Security Schemes inforce for welfare of the workers;

(b) the funds of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) accumulated upto the 31st March, 2002 and the manner in which it is being invested;

(c) the annual income from such investments and the manner in which it is being utilised; and

(d) the details of the unclaimed amount upto the 31st March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Various Social Security Schemes for the benefit of workers are available through the Employees Provident Fund Scheme 1952, Employees Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme 1976, Employees Pension Scheme 1995, Employees' State Insurance Scheme 1948, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The Government has recently launched a Social Security Scheme for agricultural labour namely 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001' and Janshree Bima Yojana to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor. In addition, the Government has enacted legislations to provide Social Security to the specified unorganised sector workers such as the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and the Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981.

(b) The total investment corpus of Employees Provident (unexempted sector) as on 31.3.2002 was Rs. 102,163.06 crore. The money is being invested as per the pattern of investment prescribed by